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Annual Report

AS TO THE

SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

Depwade Rural District

FOR THE YEAR 1938

BY

FREDERICK N. H. MAIDMENT,

Medical Officer of Health.

HARLESTON:

F. R. WAINWRIGHT, MARKET PLACE.

The Annual Report

for the Year 1938, of

The MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

TO THE

DEPWADE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

HARLESTON,

May, 1939.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Twenty-fifth Annual Report on your Sanitary District.

General Statistics

The area of your District is 79,742 acres.

Resident Population (1938) 17,020.

Number of inhabited houses, 1931 Census, 5,087.

Number of families and separate occupiers, 1931 Census, 4,920.

Rateable value, £39,449.

Sum represented by 1d. rate £193 (approximately).

Excepting Harleston, the district has a scattered population in a large number of small villages. The chief industry is agriculture, and unemployment accordingly has a seasonal variation in relation to this.

Vital Statistics

Births: Legitimate, 115 Males, 96 Females. Total 211.
Illegitimate, 6 Males, 5 Females. Total 11.
Stillbirths, 5 Males, 5 Females. Total 10.

Total Births, 222. Birth rate, 13.04 per 1,000.

Total Deaths, 224. Death rate, 13.16 per 1,000.

Stillbirths, rate per 1,000 total births, 45.04.

Percentage of Total Deaths occurring in Public Institutions 32.58.

Deaths from Puerperal causes:		Rate per 1000 total births
Puerperal sepsis ...	nil	nil
,, causes ...	1	4.50
Total, all causes ...	1	4.50

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age, per 1,000 births: Legitimate, 36.03. Illegitimate, 0. Total, 36.03.
Deaths from Measles (all ages) 1.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) 0.
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years) 1.

General Provision of Health Services.

Hospitals

The County Isolation Hospital at East Dereham is completed and has been receiving patients for several months. This welcomed institution is of great value to your Council in promptly relieving the pressure of responsibility of more serious cases of infectious diseases.

The Norwich Hospitals fulfil the need for General Hospital treatment admirably.

No special Institutional provision is made for Tuberculosis, Maternity Cases or Children. Cases of special need are admitted to the Institution at Pulham Market.

Ambulances

The Diss Ambulance will convey ordinary cases to the Institution, Pulham Market, from the following parishes :—

Billingford, Bressingham, Brockdish, Burston, Dickleburgh, Fersfield, Gissing, Roydon, Scole, Shelfanger, Shimpling, Thelveton, Thorpe Abbotts and Winfarthing. Telephone No. :—Diss 43.

A British Red Cross Ambulance is stationed at Norwich. Application for its use should be made to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital. Telephone No. :—Norwich 1311.

Clinics

There is no Special Clinic in the district. Baby Welfare centres are doing useful work in some villages.

The treatment centre for Venereal Diseases is at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital. Application for information as to days and hours of attendance should be made to the Medical Officer of Health, Harleston.

P. H. Officers

F. N. H. Maidment, Medical Officer of Health, Harleston. Part time.

F. H. Bowden, Senior Sanitary Inspector, Long Stratton. Whole time.

J. A. E. Burrows, Additional Sanitary Inspector, Long Stratton. Whole time.

Nursing Arrangements

The following private Nursing Associations are doing invaluable work in the parishes given below:—

Dickleburgh Association.

Billingford	Rushall	Shimpling
Burston	Scole	Thelveton
Dickleburgh		

Banham District Association.

Gissing	Tibenham	Winfarthing

Diss Association.

Bressingham	Roydon
Fersfield	Shelfanger

Earsham District Association.

Alburgh	Earsham	Shelton
Denton	Hardwick	

Hempnall and Tasburgh Association.

Hempnall	Tasburgh

Long Stratton District Association.

Aslacton	Morningthorpe	Tharston
Fritton	Stratton St. Mary	Wacton
Moulton	Stratton St. Michael	

Old and New Buckenham Association.

Carleton Rode

Pulham and District Association.

Pulham Market	Pulham St. Mary	Tivetshalls

Redenhall with Harleston Association.

Brockdish	Needham	Thorpe Abbotts
Harleston	Starston	Wortwell

Tacolneston Association.

Ashwellthorpe	Forncett St. Mary	Fundenhall
Bunwell	Forncett St. Peter	Tacolneston

These Associations are financed from voluntary contributions and grants from the Norfolk County Council.

Midwives

No midwives are employed or subsidised by the Local Authority.

List of Adoptive Acts, &c., in force in the District

Street watering powers for Harleston, 6th April, 1900.

Building Bye-laws, 13th October, 1930.

Bye-laws with respect to Tents, Vans and similar Structures, 1st May, 1909.

Slaughter House Bye-laws, 29th June, 1925.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply

There is no general Water Supply in your District. The larger houses mainly depend upon deep borings into the chalk, which give good supplies of clear and palatable water, but the majority of supplies are from shallow wells and ponds. The quality of this largely depends upon the regularity with which these are cleansed, and is generally fair. In many villages new wells sunk by the Council have greatly improved conditions.

The Schemes for the provision by the Council of piped Water Supplies for Harleston and Long Stratton, together with that for the provision of wells in some parishes to serve isolated groups of cottages have been commenced.

There are Public Wells in the parishes of Alburgh, Carleton Rode, Denton, Pulham Market, Pulham Mary, Harleston, Shelfanger, Tivetshall St. Margaret and Wacton.

Samples are collected by the Inspector, the analyses being carried out by the M.O.H., or by the Public Analyst. 25 Samples were taken. 4 were found to be contaminated and 1 to be of doubtful quality.

Rivers and Streams

The Harleston sewer discharges directly into the Beck, and periodical attention is necessary to improve the condition of the stream at the outfall.

Drainage and Sewerage

Where there are drains they discharge into cesspools or into open ditches. In the smaller villages the sewers (where such exist) discharge their contents into open ditches. The effluent eventually finds its way into the smaller streams. Notwithstanding this system of the pollution, one is glad to be able to state that no serious harm has so far arisen.

At Harleston and Long Stratton work has been commenced on the new sewers and disposal works which will serve these Parishes.

At Stratton St. Mary repairs have been made to the old sewers, glazed pipes being substituted for the common socketless ones, and the open sewers cleansed.

The number of W.C.'s in the District is approx. 452, which includes 8 new ones built during the year.

The majority of the houses have some form of the Conservancy System. Where privies of the old cistern type are found to be dilapidated and insanitary, or where new closet accommodation is required, closets on the Pail System are advocated.

Public Cleansing

The parish of Redenhall with Harleston is the only one where a scavenging scheme is in operation, and this is carried out by the Parish Council who act as a Committee

under the Rural District Council. The Sanitary Inspector supervises as occasion arises. In the other parishes the method of disposal is to dig house refuse and night-soil into the gardens and allotments.

The night-soil and refuse from the Urban District of Diss is deposited in the Parish of Roydon.

Sanitary Inspection

The usual routine has been followed in General Inspections under the Public Health and Housing Acts, together with re-inspections, visits to infected houses and premises, and to cowsheds and dairies, including the collection of samples for Accredited Milk. Routine visits are also paid to slaughterhouses, petrol stores, new buildings and alterations, repairs to sewers and drains supervised, and interviews with builders, owners, etc., arranged.

Many nuisances are remedied and repairs executed on verbal request, or after informal notices.

Shops and Offices

Shops and Offices—No action possible under present circumstances.

Camping Sites.

Camping Sites—None in District.

Smoke Abatement

Smoke Abatement—No action necessary.

Swimming Baths and Pools

Swimming Baths and Pools—Nil.

Bed-Bugs

Eradication of Bed-Bugs—No action necessary.

Bye-laws and Regulations

The following are controlled by Bye-laws and Regulations. New buildings, Slaughterhouses, Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Town Planning

The District Council have exercised their powers as the Interim Development Authority.

Schools

The sanitary condition of the Schools is generally good. Water Supply is in all cases available, though not always on the school premises. All contacts of cases of notifiable infectious diseases are excluded from school until the danger of infection is over. Schools are systematically examined for ambulatory cases, and carriers in the case of epidemic diseases notified therefrom. The County Medical Officer of Health issues closure orders in the event of epidemics, and the school premises undergo disinfection.

Housing

Housing Statistics for the Year 1938.

New Houses erected during the year:—

By Private Enterprise:—

(a)	Commenced 1937, completed 1938 ...	12
(b)	Commenced 1938, completed 1938 ...	9
(c)	Commenced 1938, not completed 1938	11
(d)	Plans approved but not erected ...	5
(e)	Additions to houses	9
(f)	Miscellaneous buildings	10
(g)	New Drainage Systems & Improvements	5

By Local Authority:—

(a)	Commenced 1937, completed 1938 ...	35
(b)	Commenced 1938, completed 1938 ...	84
(c)	Commenced 1938, not completed 1938	72

1. Dwelling-houses—Inspection.

(1) (*a*) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 198

(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose 390

(2) (*a*) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 92

(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose 92

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 52

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 18

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... 12

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:

(*a*) by Owners ... ... nil

(*b*) by Local Authority in default of owners nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
	(*a*) by Owners	nil
	(*b*) by Local Authority in default of owners	nil

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	46
(2) (*a*)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	31
(*b*)	Ditto, voluntarily	1
(3)	Number of cottages to be put out of use by undertakings	30

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	nil

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding.

(a)	(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	38
	(2) Number of families dwelling therein	38
	(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	227
(b)	Number of New Cases of Overcrowding reported during the year	10
(c)	(1) Number of cases of Overcrowding relieved during the year	22
	(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	160
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which Dwelling-Houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of Overcrowding ...	nil
(e)	Any other Particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the M.O.H. may consider it desirable to report ...	

Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.

(1)	Number of Cottages in respect of which application has been made to the Council	21
(2)	Number refused	3
(3)	Withdrawn by applicant after approval of grant	nil
(4)	Number under consideration at end of year	7
(5)	Number of cottages in respect of which grants have been approved	14
(6)	Number of cottages where work has been carried out	17

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk

(a) Milk Supply.

1. Action taken as to tuberculous milk and tuberculous cattle—nil.
2. Number of licenses granted for the sale of milk under special designations, Accredited—63.
3. Refusal or revocation of registration of retailers or of licenses for graded milk—1.
4. Number of examinations of milk which have been made in connection with the Accredited Milk Scheme—257.
5. Number of Bulk Samples taken—124.

Meat and other Foods

Bakehouses and Slaughterhouses where food is prepared for sale are inspected, 14 and 225 visits respectively being made, and these can be generally regarded as satisfactory.

No distinctive marking for Carcases has been adopted. The number of emergency slaughterings of which notice was given was 3.

The following were condemned as unfit for food and voluntarily surrendered to the Inspector :—

1 Carcase of Pork (T.B.)
3 Heads of Pork (T.B.)
1 Leg of Pork (T.B.)
5 Pigs' Livers and Offals.

All Licenses were renewed.

(c) Adulteration, etc.—No action taken. Controlled by N.C.C.

(d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food —No action taken.

(e) Nutrition—No action taken.

(f) Shell-fish (Molluscan)—No shell-fish beds or layings in the District.

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Diseases.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is issued by the County Laboratory, 29, Thorpe Road, Norwich. Supplies are charged o the Medical Practitioners, but the cost is repaid by the District Council if the patient is unable to pay.

No cases of Malaria, Dysentery or Trench Fever have occurred during the year. 171 swabs were examined for Diphtheria and one sputum for Tuberculosis.

No vaccinations were done by the M.O.H.

The following disinfections have been made by the Sanitary Inspector :— Disinfections

Disinfectants were supplied to 25 houses and Fumigations were carried out for the following infectious diseases : Scarlet Fever 15 cases, Tuberculosis 3, Diphtheria 16, Other cases 2.

Ten cases were removed to Isolation Hospitals.

No action has been taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

Appended are the Tables of incidence of Infectious Diseases, Causes of Death and cases of Tuberculosis with analyses.

Once again I take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Bowden for his invaluable assistance to me during the year, and also Mr. Burrows for his co-operation.

A localised outbreak of Diphtheria at Tharston and a widespread epidemic of Measles, particularly affecting the parishes of Brockdish and Forncett were the only serious occurrences of infectious disease during the year. The Public Health of your district has otherwise been very good.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you sincerely for the generous support and friendship you have always extended to me during the twenty-five years I have had the honour of serving you.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

FREDERICK N. H. MAIDMENT,
M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S.E.

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE 1.—TABLE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1938.

DEPWADE RURAL DISTRICT.

Notifiable Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases sent to Hospital	Total Deaths.	Age Groups.											
				Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	7	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	—	—	1	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	19	5	—	—	—	—	1	1	11	6	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever, etc. ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Puerperal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	—
Pneumonia	30	2	7	1	1	2	—	—	5	—	—	1	5	11	4
Eryrsipelas	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2
Opthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Polio-Encephalitis ...	2	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals ...	71	14	9	1	2	2	1	1	18	10	0	5	9	15	7

TABLE 2.—CAUSES OF DEATH DURING YEAR 1938.

DEPWADE RURAL DISTRICT.

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.	
	All Ages	
	Males	Females
All Causes { Males 125, Females 99		
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—
Measles	1	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Influenza	1	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	6	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	1	—
Syphilis	—	—
General Paralysis of the Insane, tabes dorsalis	—	—
Cancer, Malignant Disease	17	15
Diabetes	1	3
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	9	9
Heart Disease	48	37
Aneurysm	—	—
Other Circulatory Diseases	3	6
Bronchitis	2	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	7	—
Other Respiratory Diseases	—	2
Peptic Ulcer	1	1
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) ...	1	—
Appendicitis	—	—
Cirrhosis of Liver, &c.	—	—
Other Diseases of Liver, &c. ...	1	1
Other Digestive Diseases	3	3
Acute and Chronic Nephritis ...	—	2
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
Other Puerperal Causes	—	1
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, &c.	5	2
Senility	4	8
Suicide	1	—
Other Deaths from violence	6	1
Other defined Diseases	7	6
Causes ill-defined or unknown ...	—	—
Diarrhœa 2 years and over	—	—
Special Causes (included above)		
Small Pox	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—
Polioencephalitis	—	2
Deaths of Infants under 1 { Total ...	6	2
Deaths of Infants under 1 { Legitimate	6	2
Deaths of Infants under 1 { Illegitimate	—	—
Live Births { Total ...	121	101
Live Births { Legitimate	115	96
Live Births { Illegitimate	6	5
Stillbirths { Total ...	5	5
Stillbirths { Legitimate	5	5
Stillbirths { Illegitimate	—	—
Population	17,020	

TABLE 3.

TUBERCULOSIS 1938	New Cases.				Deaths.			
Age Periods	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5	3	—	—	2	—	—	1	—
15	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
25	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
35	3	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
45	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
55	2	1	—	—	2	1	—	—
65 and upwards	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals ...	9	4	1	7	6	1	1	0

Ratio of Non-notified T.B. Deaths to total Tuberculosis Deaths 1 : 8.